

ORDER NO. 5949

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Michael Kubayanda, Chairman;  
Ashley E. Poling, Vice Chairwoman;  
Mark Acton;  
Ann C. Fisher; and  
Robert G. Taub

Competitive Product Prices  
Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 122  
(MC2021-60)  
Negotiated Service Agreements

Docket No. CP2021-62

ORDER APPROVING AMENDMENT ONE TO PRIORITY MAIL EXPRESS  
& PRIORITY MAIL NEGOTIATED SERVICE AGREEMENT

(Issued July 30, 2021)

I. INTRODUCTION

The Postal Service seeks to amend a Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail negotiated service agreement.<sup>1</sup> For the reasons discussed below, the Commission approves the Amendment.

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<sup>1</sup> USPS Notice of Amendment to Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 122, Filed Under Seal, July 21, 2021 (Notice). The amendment is an attachment to the Notice (Amendment).

## II. BACKGROUND

In Order No. 5807, the Commission approved the Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 122 negotiated service agreement (Existing Agreement).<sup>2</sup> On July 21, 2021, the Postal Service filed notice that it has agreed to the Amendment to the Existing Agreement. On July 22, 2021, the Commission issued a notice reopening this docket to consider the Amendment, appointing a Public Representative, and providing interested persons with an opportunity to comment.<sup>3</sup>

The Postal Service intends for the Amendment to become effective three business days after the date that the Commission completes its review of the Notice. Notice at 1. The Postal Service filed supporting financial documentation and a certified statement, as required by 39 C.F.R. § 3035.105. *Id.*

## III. COMMENTS

Comments were filed by the Public Representative.<sup>4</sup> No other person submitted comments. The Public Representative reviewed the Amendment, the Existing Agreement, and the financial model filed under seal. PR Comments at 2. Based on that review, he concludes that the Existing Agreement, as amended, should continue to generate sufficient revenue to cover costs and satisfy 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a). *Id.* He notes that the Commission will have an opportunity to annually review the financial results of the contract for compliance with 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a). *Id.*

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<sup>2</sup> See Docket Nos. MC2021-60 and CP2021-62, Order Adding Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 122 to the Competitive Product List, January 11, 2021 (Order No. 5807).

<sup>3</sup> See Docket No. CP2021-62, *et al.*, Notice Initiating Docket(s) for Recent Postal Service Negotiated Service Agreement Filings, July 22, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Public Representative Comments on Postal Service Notice of Amendment to Priority Mail Contract 122, July 27, 2021 (PR Comments). The Public Representative filed a notice of errata to revise the written filing date listed on the PR Comments. Notice of Errata, July 28, 2021.

#### IV. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission has reviewed the Notice, the accompanying materials filed under seal, and the comments filed by the Public Representative.

*Cost considerations.* The Commission reviews competitive product prices to ensure that each product covers its attributable costs, does not cause market dominant products to subsidize competitive products, and contributes to the Postal Service's institutional costs. 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a); 39 C.F.R. §§ 3035.105 and 3035.107. As long as the revenue generated by the product exceeds its attributable costs, the product is unlikely to reduce the contribution of competitive products as a whole or to adversely affect the ability of competitive products as a whole to contribute an appropriate share of institutional costs. In other words, if a product covers its attributable costs, it is likely to comply with 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a).

The Amendment revises a clause for the Postal Service to provide the customer with specialized Priority Mail Boxes, and the option of providing additional standard, specialized, and/or customized packaging at the Postal Service's discretion. Notice, Attachment 1 at 1. In addition, the Amendment updates the contract quarters, revises the customized contract package price tables, and amends the timeline for quarterly business review of customer's contract packages from 15 calendar days to 30 calendar days. *Id.* at 1-4.

Based on a review of the record, the Commission finds that the Existing Agreement, as amended, should cover its attributable costs. 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a)(2). For this reason, it finds that the Existing Agreement, as amended, should not result in competitive products as a whole being subsidized by market dominant products, in accordance with 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a)(1). Similarly, it finds the Existing Agreement, as amended, is unlikely to prevent competitive products as a whole from contributing an appropriate share of institutional costs, consistent with 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a)(3). See *also* 39 C.F.R. § 3035.107(c). Accordingly, a preliminary review of the Amendment indicates it is consistent with section 3633(a). The Commission will continue to review

the cost coverage of the Existing Agreement, as amended, in its Annual Compliance Determination to ensure that rates cover costs.

*Other considerations.* The Postal Service states that the Amendment shall become effective three business days after the date that the Commission completes its review. Notice at 1.

If the Existing Agreement, as amended, is terminated prior to the scheduled expiration date, the Postal Service shall promptly notify the Commission.

In conclusion, the Commission approves the Existing Agreement, as amended.

## V. ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

*It is ordered:*

1. The Commission approves the Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 122 negotiated service agreement, as amended.
2. The Postal Service shall notify the Commission if the Existing Agreement, as amended, terminates prior to the scheduled expiration date.

By the Commission.

Erica A. Barker  
Secretary